

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023, 10:00 A.M., PUBLIC MEETING-GOLD ROOM, FOURTH FLOOR
OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.

BOARD MEMBERS: HONORABLE RICH FITZGERALD, CHAIR-present
HONORABLE THOMAS DUERR, MEMBER-present
HONORABLE CYNTHIA KIRK, MEMBER-present

IN ATTENDANCE: JESSICA GAROFOLO-DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
JAMES DAVIS-DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES
DAVID VOYE – MANAGER, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
ALLAN J. OPSITNICK – ASST. COUNTY SOLICITOR
LISA G. MICHELE-ASST COUNTY SOLICITOR

I. **CALL TO ORDER** –Meeting called to order by Chair Fitzgerald at 10:00 AM. Roll was taken by Mr. Opsitnick. All members present, in person.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

In-Person Comments:

Juliet Zavon-Echoed her written comments regarding poll worker training submitted and part of these Minutes.

Emailed Comments:

William Towne-Variou areas of concern. Primary issue of voted ballots and official ballots.

Brenda Forman-Presented four submissions:

- a. Right To Know Request;
- b. Communications with DOS Secretary Schmidt regarding notice of violations and vulnerabilities;
- c. Regarding approval of electronic voting systems;
- d. Submission of various reports/data from other states, including Arizona and Wisconsin.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2023 MEETING

Moved by Member Duerr. Seconded by Member Kirk. Approved 3-0.

IV. DISCUSSION OF 2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION AND CERTIFICATION

Chair Fitzgerald commented on his last meeting as a member of the Board of Elections, that Allegheny County is the gold standard regarding elections administration, thanked Ms. Garofolo, Mr. Davis, Mr. Voye, Mr. Harhut and Mr. Opsitnick for certifying, at this municipal election, approximately 1,000 races, some of which were very close. Chair Fitzgerald also thanked Ms. Downs, Ms. Liptak and Mr. McKain.

Member Duerr echoed Chair Fitzgerald's comments, indicating that County staff were consummate professionals and that he appreciated his brief as an appointed member of the Board of Elections.

Member Kirk agreed with Chair Fitzgerald and Member Duerr, further indicating that she witnessed the elections administration and tabulation process and appreciated it and indicated that her preference would be to make elections districts fairer in size.

Mr. Harhut indicated that there were 141,134 absentee/mail-in applications, of which 113,661 returned. 951 ballots were returned to voter for various reasons with approximately 600 of those having issues with no date or an incorrect date. Mr. Harhut also noted that approximately 1,000 ballots were received late and could not be counted.

Chair Fitzgerald inquired regarding mail-ins that were received by the Post Office but not delivered to the Elections warehouse. Were they considered late. Mr. Harhut affirmed.

Member Duerr indicated that mail-in voters should be texted a reminder.

Mr. Opsitnick noted a court order regarding 248 incorrectly dated ballots that were to be counted.

Mr. Voye discussed certification of results. Member Duerr inquired as to write-ins being posted and Mr. Voye indicated that there are approximately 135 possible write-in winners. Member Kirk inquired on how to claim a write-in office and how ties are broken. Mr. Voye provided a detailed explanation.

Mr. Opsitnick requested the Board to vote to approve the certification of the November 2023 election results. Moved by Member Duerr. Seconded by Member Kirk. Certification passed 3-0.

Ms. Garofolo thanked the Board of Elections for their efforts.

Chair Fitzgerald commented that the County's recruitment of approximately 7,000 poll workers was great and indicated a superior effort.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM